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## Shamanism and Memetic Magic

The entire memetic magical system, including especially *Artistic Memetic Magic*, can be seen as a modern re-manifestation of the archaic current of *shamanism*. Shamanism has been practiced for at least 30,000 years, and very possibly for as long as human-like organisms have inhabited the Earth. (Some scientists believe that organisms very similar to modern human beings have existed for at least 3 million years). Within the sociocultural matrixes formed by Western Civilization, the memetic magical system would necessarily be seen by the majority of human inhabitants of those cultural systems as a completely new and unique system resting on two incredible, borderline unbelievable claims. These claims are that the fabric of reality can be manipulated through nothing more complex than artistic endeavor, and that the power to create powerful artwork can be obtained simply by strict isolation.

But in the archaic world, and those modern human tribes who still have not settled into rigidly controlling agriculturally supported urban sociocultural matrixes, very little contained within the pages of this book would come as a real revelation. Shamans, sorcerers, diviners, and oracles have been practicing the very same methods under different linguistic guises for tens of thousands of years, if not longer. Western Civilization holds up examples of fake shamans, sorcerers, diviners, and oracles to bring folly and ridicule to traditions which threaten the stability of their own sociocultural matrixes which rest on conformity to religious, ideological, and economic hegemonies. Certainly, there are false shamans and those who prey upon the ignorance of others. But Western Civilization has purposefully forgotten and ignored the undeniable truth that real shamans exist in the present who travel to a real underworld and